

Remarks

Applicant has amended the Summary of the Invention so that it is consistent with the amendments made to independent claims 19 and 22 by this amendment and to new independent claim 23 added by this amendment.

Applicant has amended independent claims 19 and 22 to recite that there is stored in the coupler one or more instances of a command interpreter with the command interpreter providing a command/reply interface for data and command exchange between one of the at least one clients and a control network connected to the coupler and that the template is associated with one of the one or more stored instances of the command interpreter. Applicant has added new independent claim 23 to a method for use with those of a plurality of commands sent by at least one client on a network connected to a network communications coupler designated by the client as a delayed response command. The method calls for storing in the coupler one or more instances of a command interpreter with the command interpreter providing a command/reply interface for data and command exchange between one of the at least one clients. The method also calls for storing in the coupler a first instance of a template with the template associated with one or more stored instances of the command interpreter.

The application as filed describes the CNI command interpreter starting at line 8 on page 5 and states at lines 11-13 and 19-21 on that page that the command interpreter provides the claimed command/reply interface. The application as filed states at lines 26-31 on page 12 that there may be more than one CNI object present simultaneously in the system and these objects can function simultaneously. Therefore the amendment to claims 19 and 22 and the recitation in new claim 23 that there is stored in the coupler one or more instances of a command interpreter with the command interpreter providing a command/reply interface for data and command exchange between

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one of the at least one clients and a control network connected to the coupler does not constitute new matter.

The application as filed states at lines 20-23 on page 11 that a client can be associated with a CNI. At line 32 on page 12 to line 1 on page 13 the application as filed states that there are individual command handlers. At lines 10-21 on page 14 the application as filed describes the processing of commands for a CNI and that for the multiple CNIs as discussed above described at lines 26-31 on page 12 each CNI has its own command management and keyed reply storage. The application as filed states at lines 33-35 on page 4 that there is communication with clients. Therefore there is support in the application as filed for the amendment to claims 19 and 22 and the recitation in new claim 23 that the template is associated with one of the one or more stored instances of the command interpreter. Thus the applicant submits that the amendments to claims 19 and 22 and new claim 23 do not introduce new matter.

Applicant has added new claims 24-32 which each depend on new independent claim 23. New claim 28 recites the putEntry, getEntry and checkEntry functions that are in the template as is described at lines 10-15 on page 17 of the application as filed and thus does not introduce new matter. No further fee is required for new claims 23 to 32 as this application as filed had 18 total claims two of which are independent and after entry of this amendment will have 14 total claims three of which are independent.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 as filed saying that it includes computer programming code and descriptions and comments are required for the reader to understand the purpose of the code. Applicant has canceled claim 15.

The Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-14, 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the previously cited U.S. patent to Atsatt in view of the previously cited U.S. patent to Niblett

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et al. In support of this rejection the Examiner says with respect to claim 10 that Atsatt teaches everything called for in that claim except for use of a predetermined key value provided by the at least one key value is used to retrieve a reply the command which reply is stored until retrieved by the client which the Examiner says is taught by Niblett. With regard to independent claims 19 and 22 the Examiner says that it encompasses the same scope of invention as claim 10 and therefore is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10.

Applicant has in the Rule 111 Amendment discussed both Atsatt and Niblett and hereby incorporates by reference that discussion. Applicant notes that neither reference alone or in combination teaches the invention taught and claimed by applicant in amended independent claims 19 and 22 and new independent claim 23. Therefore for the reasons given above applicant submits that claims 19-32 are allowable over Atsatt in view of Niblett.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested as it will place this application in a condition for allowance.

Petition and Fee For Extension of Time

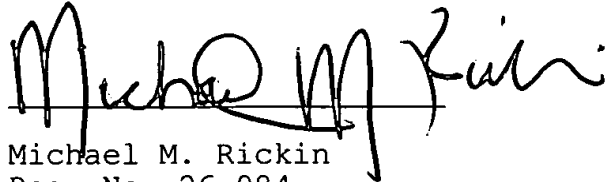
Applicant also includes herewith a Petition and Fee For Extension of Time asking that the period to respond to this Action be extended to four months from the date of the mailing of the Action viz., May 20, 2004. As is set forth in the Transmittal Letter to which this Amendment is attached the required fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0877.

*****Signature and Certificate of Mailing
Appear on Following Page*****

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/19/04



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the 19th day of May, 2004.

Respectfully, Debra Rietze

Date: May 19, 2004